

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 2, 1999

LR 3

Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Well, with that, Mr. Chairman, I would move to withdraw AM0567.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn. For further discussion on LR 3, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think I would pass at the moment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wehrbein would move to bracket the resolution until March 17th.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. We've had a fairly good discussion this morning. I would have liked to have had perhaps a little broader discussion. But I did think it serves the purpose of having a broader understanding of the budget in the situation it is in right now. We have not finished our appropriation hearing process, as you know. We thought it was appropriate to bring this status, as of last Friday, to your attention. I hope that you recognize the seriousness of the issue and actually the difficulty of putting a budget together that does slow the growth. Governor Johanns has presented a slower growth budget. I think we have recognized that here. We are going to have some differences of opinion, some as we go into the future we're going to see that. But the thing about it is that we have to understand Nebraska does have some demands that is not typical of a typical household, especially as represented as the Consumer Price Index and things such as this. I will not be particularly repetitive, but I want to call your attention to the fact that we've had a tremendous increase in health insurance, 37 percent, we've had a big increase in long-term nursing home care. We have a high percent of elderly, in Nebraska, as well as in the Midwest. Those kinds of things drive our budget, in many cases. And so